Reviewer’s report

Title: Reduction of ureteral stent encrustation by modulating the urine pH and inhibiting the crystal film with a new oral composition: a multicenter, placebo controlled, double blind, randomized clinical trial

Version: 0 Date: 10 Mar 2020

Reviewer: Mustafa Kadihasanoglu

Reviewer's report:

The authors aimed to assess the potential in preventing double-J stent encrustation of a new oral composition in a study with indwelling times between 3 and 8 weeks, as well its efficacy and safety. A number of issues need to be clarified by the authors:

1. The title reflects the conclusion of the manuscript. However, oral composition is not clear. What is this oral composition? It is a dietary supplement. Therefore, dietary supplement is more favorable than oral composition.

2. Please add the number of patients of each groups to abstract.

3. The introduction is too long.

4. In background, first page line 11, is "4" a reference?

5. Urinary supersaturation and indwelling time are important factors for encrustation. However, the authors did not mention these important factors in introduction.

6. Pregnancy is another risk factor for encrustation. Did the study include pregnant patients?

7. Were the diameter of stents similar between groups?

8. The authors scored the encrustation with the amount of encrusted area. It may be affected by removal of stent. Why did they not quantify the thickness of the encrustation?

9. The figure-2 is not easily interpretable. &gt;1-2 mm2 &lt;1-2 mm2 If the area is 2 mm2, is it score 1 or 2?

10. Did the authors evaluate the presence of bacteria?
Please confirm that you have included your review in the ‘Comments to Author’ box?
As a minimum standard, please include a few sentences that outline what you think are the authors’ hypothesis/objectives, their main results, and the conclusions drawn. Your report should constructively instruct authors on how they can strengthen their paper to the point where it may be acceptable for publication, or provide detailed reasons as to why the manuscript does not fulfill our criteria for consideration. Please supply appropriate evidence using examples from the manuscript to substantiate your comments. Please break your comments into two bulleted or numbered sections: major and minor comments.

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- Is the exact sample size (n) reported for each experimental group/condition (as a number, not a range)?
- Are the description of any error bars and probability values appropriate?
- Are all error bars defined in the corresponding figure legends?
- Has a sample size calculation been included, or a description and rationale about how sample sizes were chosen?

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